Maharaja of Jaipur, [Ram Singh II](https://www.geni.com/people/Maharaja-Ram-Singh-II/6000000009756879309) was famous for many things. It was during his reign that slavery, infanticide and other cruel customs were abolished. He was, however, also known for being a rather avid photographer.

He could see the value of photography years before many people had even heard of it. In this collection of glass negatives, shot between 1857 and 1865, we get unique insight into the people he spent his days with. It’s a fascinating look at the fashions of the day, and some rather magnificent facial hair.

Guided by British photographer, T. Murray, he developed his interest in portraits. With four wives to photograph, he was never short of subjects to practise with.